
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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**Statement of U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Nuclear Threat Reduction Act**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), together with U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), today introduced the Nuclear Threat Reduction Act of 2001 (NTRA). The following is a statement from Rep. Spratt.

“We offer this legislation in the hope of finding common ground. We make recommendations that should not be controversial. Senator Landrieu, Representative Tauscher and I have sought to build on statements President Bush has made and on ideas advanced by an array of defense experts, including former Senators Sam Nunn, Howard Baker, and Warren Rudman. What we seek is a bipartisan consensus on policies to reduce the risks associated with nuclear weapons and nuclear materials.

“This bill proceeds from one simple premise. If we want to reduce the dangers posed by nuclear weapons, we have work with the Russians. To that end, the Nuclear Threat Reduction Act makes three proposals, each of which President Bush in effect has endorsed.

“First, the NTRA recommends that the United States negotiate with Russia arms control agreements to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in each of our arsenals to levels well below START II.

“Second, NTRA recommends that the U.S. establish formal arrangements with Russia to remove certain weapons from ‘immediate, launch-ready’ status, focusing first on weapons already targeted for elimination under the START II Treaty.

“Third, NTRA beefs up funding for cooperative threat reduction and non-proliferation. All of these programs were examined recently by a commission chaired by former Senator Howard Baker and former White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler. The bipartisan commission recommended that the U.S. invest \$30 billion over the next ten years in addressing what it called America’s ‘single greatest national security threat.’ The NTRA takes a long step in this direction by increasing all such programs run by Defense, Energy, and State from their current funding level of \$1.2 billion to a level of \$2 billion in 2002.”

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